

18. (New) A composition for treating rheumatoid arthritis comprising (a) an amount of a bicyclam capable of inhibiting the activation of the CXCR4 receptor by SDF-1, which amount is effective to treat rheumatoid arthritis, and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
19. (New) The composition of claim 18, wherein the bicyclam is AMD3100.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-15 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have canceled claims 7, 11, 12, 16 and 17 without prejudice and have added new claims 18 and 19. Support for new claims 18 and 19 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, page 10, lines 9-12, and page 11, lines 1-3. Applicants maintain that the addition of new claims 18 and 19 does not raise an issue of new matter. Applicants have also introduced certain format changes to the specification to address the informalities raised by the Examiner. A marked-up version of the amended paragraph is annexed hereto as Exhibit A. Accordingly, new claims 18 and 19 will be pending in the subject application upon entry of this Amendment.

In view of the arguments set forth below, applicants maintain that the Examiner's objections and rejections made in the September 11, 2002 Office Action have been overcome, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw same.